



FORT WORTH  
REGIONAL OFFICE

UNITED STATES  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
BURNETT PLAZA, 801 CHERRY STREET, SUITE 1900, UNIT 18  
FORT WORTH, TX 76102

April 14, 2022

**Via E-Mail and UPS**

John Brda  
c/o Caz Hashemi  
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati  
650 Page Mill Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1050  
[chashemi@wsgr.com](mailto:chashemi@wsgr.com)

Re: In the Matter of Torchlight Energy Resources, Inc. (FW-04461)

Dear Mr. Brda:

The staff of the Fort Worth Regional Office of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission is conducting an investigation in the matter identified above. The enclosed subpoena has been issued to you as part of this investigation. The subpoena requires you to provide us documents.

Please read the subpoena and this letter carefully. This letter answers some questions you may have about the subpoena. You should also read the enclosed SEC Form 1662. If you do not comply with this subpoena, the SEC may bring an action in Federal Court to enforce this subpoena. Failure to comply with a court order enforcing this subpoena may result in the court imposing a fine, imprisonment or both.

**Producing Documents**

*What materials do I have to produce?*

The subpoena requires you to provide us the documents described in the attachment to the subpoena. You must provide these documents by **May 10, 2022**. The attachment to the subpoena defines some terms (such as "document") before listing what you must provide.

You should produce each and every document in your possession, custody, or control, including any documents that are not in your immediate possession but that you have the ability to obtain. All responsive documents shall be produced as they are kept in the usual course of business, and shall be organized and labeled to correspond with the numbered paragraphs in the subpoena attachment. In that regard, documents should be produced in a unitized manner, *i.e.*, delineated with staples or paper clips to identify the document boundaries.

**EXHIBIT**  
**A-1**

Documents responsive to this subpoena may be in electronic or paper form. Electronic documents such as email should be produced in accordance with the attached document entitled SEC Data Delivery Standards (the “Standards”). If you have any questions concerning the production of documents in an electronic format, please contact me as soon as possible but in any event before producing documents. **All electronic documents responsive to the document subpoena, including all metadata, must also be secured and retained in their native software format and stored in a safe place.** The staff may later request or require that you produce the native format.

For documents in paper format, you may send the originals, or, if you prefer, you may send copies of the originals. The Commission cannot reimburse you for the copying costs. If you are sending copies, the staff requests that you scan (rather than photocopy) hard copy documents and produce them in an electronic format consistent with the Standards. Alternatively, you may send us photocopies of the documents in paper format. **If you choose to send copies, you must secure and retain the originals and store them in a safe place.** The staff may later request or require that you produce the originals.

Whether you scan or photocopy documents, the copies must be identical to the originals, including even faint marks or print. Also, please note that if copies of a document differ in any way, they are considered separate documents and you must send each one. For example, if you have two copies of the same letter, but only one of them has handwritten notes on it, you must send both the clean copy and the one with notes.

If you do send us scanned or photocopied documents, please put an identifying notation on each page of each document to indicate that you produced it, and number the pages of all the documents submitted. (For example, if Jane Doe sends documents to the staff, she may number the pages JD-1, JD-2, JD-3, etc., in a blank corner of the documents.) Please make sure the notation and number do not conceal any writing or marking on the document. If you send us originals, please do not add any identifying notations.

In producing a photocopy of an original document that contains post-it(s), notation flag(s), or other removable markings or attachments which may conceal all or a portion of the markings contained in the original document, photocopies of the original document both with and without the relevant post-it(s), notation flag(s), or removable markings or attachments should be produced.

*Do I need to send anything else?*

You should enclose a list briefly describing each item you send. The list should state to which numbered paragraph(s) in the subpoena attachment each item responds. A copy of the subpoena should be included with the documents that are produced.

Passwords for documents, files, compressed archives, and encrypted media should be provided separately either via email addressed to [ENF-CPU@sec.gov](mailto:ENF-CPU@sec.gov) and [singletonm@sec.gov](mailto:singletonm@sec.gov), or in a separate cover letter mailed separately from the data. **Password correspondence should reference case number, case name and requesting SEC staff member.**

Please include a cover letter stating whether you believe you have met your obligations under the subpoena by searching carefully and thoroughly for everything called for by the subpoena, and

sending it all to us. **Correspondence should reference case number, case name and requesting SEC staff member.**

Please also provide a narrative description describing what you did to identify and collect documents responsive to the subpoena. At a minimum, the narrative should describe:

- who searched for documents;
- who reviewed documents found to determine whether they were responsive;
- what sources were searched (e.g., computer files, CDs, DVDs, thumb drives, flash drives, online storage media, hard copy files, diaries, datebooks, planners, filing cabinets, home office, work office, voice mails, home email, webmail, work email, backup tapes or other media);
- what third parties, if any, were contacted to obtain responsive documents (e.g., phone companies for phone records, brokerage firms for brokerage records); and
- where the original electronic and hardcopy documents are maintained and by whom.

For any documents that qualify as records of regularly conducted activities under Federal Rule of Evidence 902(11), please have the appropriate representative of your firm complete a business records certification (a sample of which is enclosed) and return it with the document production.

*What if I do not send everything described in the attachment to the subpoena?*

The subpoena requires you to send all the materials described in it. If, for any reason – including a claim of attorney-client privilege – you do not produce something called for by the subpoena, you should submit a list of what you are not producing. The list should describe each item separately, noting:

- its author(s);
- its date;
- its subject matter;
- the name of the person who has the item now, or the last person known to have it;
- the names of everyone who ever had the item or a copy of it, and the names of everyone who was told the item's contents;
- the reason you did not produce the item; and
- the specific request in the subpoena to which the document relates.

If you withhold anything on the basis of a claim of attorney-client privilege or attorney work product protection, you should identify the attorney and client involved. If you withhold anything on the basis of the work product doctrine, you should also identify the litigation in anticipation of which the document was prepared.

April 14, 2022  
Page 4

If documents responsive to this subpoena no longer exist because they have been lost, discarded, or otherwise destroyed, you should identify such documents and give the date on which they were lost, discarded or destroyed.

*Where should I send the materials?*

Please send the materials to:

ENF-CPU (U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission)  
14420 ALBEMARLE POINT PL  
SUITE 102  
CHANTILLY, VA 20151-1750

For smaller electronic productions under 10MB in size, the materials may be emailed to the following email address: [ENF-CPU@sec.gov](mailto:ENF-CPU@sec.gov).

### **Duty to Preserve Evidence**

Torchlight has a duty to reasonably preserve and retain Evidence. Failure to do so could give rise to civil and criminal liability. This duty also extends to the preservation and retention of Evidence in the possession or custody of third-parties, such as an internet service provider or a cloud computing provider, if such Evidence is within Torchlight's control. If you are aware of responsive materials that you contend are not in Torchlight's control, you should make that objection known in your response.

Evidence requiring preservation include both "hard copy" versions and electronically-stored information of documents, communications, and data in Torchlight's possession, custody or control, including: word processing documents, spreadsheets, e-mail, voicemail, databases, calendars and scheduling information, backup files, letters, instant messages, memoranda, notes, correspondence or communications of any kind from **January 1, 2020 to present relating to Torchlight, Meta Materials, or the Merger** (as all terms are defined in the attachment to the subpoena). Evidence that is stored electronically may include data and documents on shared networks, cloud computing hosts ("the cloud"), computer hard drives, servers, DVDs, CD-ROMs, flash drives, thumb drives, laptops, digital recorders, netbooks, tablets, smartphones, or other handheld devices.

Torchlight may need to act affirmatively to prevent the destruction of Evidence. This duty may necessitate quarantining certain Evidence to avoid its destruction or alteration. Torchlight should consider whether it needs to discontinue the routine destruction of Evidence, including discontinuing the recycling of backup tapes or other storage media, and the deletion of emails, "trash," "recycling," "drafts," "sent," or "archived" folders. Torchlight should avoid running or installing any drive cleaning, wiping, encrypting, reformatting, or defragmenting software on hard disks of computers that may contain Evidence.

### **Testifying**

*Where and when do I testify?*

The subpoena requires you to appear virtually for testimony before the Commission on **May 24, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. Central Daylight Time**, to testify under oath in the matter identified on the subpoena. Your testimony will be recorded by audiovisual and stenographic means.





**SUBPOENA ATTACHMENT FOR TORCHLIGHT ENERGY RESOURCES, INC>**

**April 14, 2022**

In the Matter of Torchlight Energy Resources, Inc. (FW-04461)

**A. Definitions**

As used in this subpoena, the words and phrases listed below shall have the following meanings:

1. “Torchlight Energy Resources, Inc.” (“Torchlight”) means the entity doing business under the name “Torchlight Energy Resources, Inc.” or “TRCH” or “Torchlight” including parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, predecessors, successors, officers, directors, employees, agents, general partners, limited partners, partnerships and aliases, code names, or trade or business names used by any of the foregoing.
2. “Meta Materials, Inc.” (“Metamaterial”) means any entity doing business under the name “Metamaterial Inc.” or “Meta Materials Inc.” or “MMAT” or “Metamaterial” or “Meta Materials” or “Meta Material” including parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, predecessors, successors, officers, directors, employees, agents, general partners, limited partners, partnerships and aliases, code names, or trade or business names used by any of the foregoing.
3. The “Merger” means the reverse merger involving Torchlight Energy Resources, Inc. and Metamaterial Inc. that occurred in June 2021.
4. “Person” means a natural person, firm, association, organization, partnership, business, trust, corporation, bank or any other private or public entity.
5. A “Representative” of a Person means any present or former family members, officers, executives, partners, joint-venturers, directors, trustees, employees, consultants, accountants, attorneys, agents, or any other representative acting or purporting to act on behalf of the Person.
6. “Document” shall include, but is not limited to, any written, printed, or typed matter including, but not limited to all drafts and copies bearing notations or marks not found in the original, letters and correspondence, interoffice communications, slips, tickets, records, worksheets, financial records, accounting documents, bookkeeping documents, memoranda, reports, manuals, telephone logs, telegrams, facsimiles, messages of any type, telephone messages, voice mails, tape recordings, notices, instructions, minutes, summaries, notes of meetings, file folder markings, and any other organizational indicia, purchase orders, information recorded by photographic process, including microfilm and microfiche, computer printouts, spreadsheets, and other electronically stored information, including but not limited to writings, drawings, graphs, charts, photographs, sound recordings, images, and other data or data compilations that are stored in any medium from which information can be retrieved, obtained, manipulated, or translated.
7. “Communication” means any correspondence, contact, discussion, e-mail, instant message, or any other kind of oral or written exchange or transmission of information (in the form of facts, ideas, inquiries, or otherwise) and any response thereto between two or more Persons or entities, including, without limitation, all telephone

conversations, face-to-face meetings or conversations, internal or external discussions, or exchanges of a Document or Documents.

8. “Concerning” means directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, describing, constituting, evidencing, recording, evaluating, substantiating, concerning, referring to, alluding to, in connection with, commenting on, relating to, regarding, discussing, showing, analyzing or reflecting.
9. An “Agreement” means any actual or contemplated (i) written or oral Agreement; (ii) term or provision of such Agreement; or (iii) amendment of any nature or termination of such Agreement. A request for any Agreement among or between specified parties includes a request for all Documents Concerning (i) any actual or contemplated Agreement among or between such parties, whether or not such Agreement included any other Person; (ii) the drafting or negotiation of any such Agreement; (iii) any actual or contemplated demand, request or application for any such Agreement, and any response thereto; and (iv) any actual or contemplated objection or refusal to enter into any such Agreement, and any response thereto.
10. The terms “you” and “your” means the Person or entity to whom this subpoena was issued.
11. To the extent necessary to bring within the scope of this subpoena any information or Documents that might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope:
  - a. the word “or” means “and/or”;
  - b. the word “and” means “and/or”;
  - c. the functional words “each,” “every” “any” and “all” shall each be deemed to include each of the other functional words;
  - d. the masculine gender includes the female gender and the female gender includes the masculine gender; and
  - e. the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular.

**B. Instructions**

1. Unless otherwise specified, the subpoena calls for production of the original Documents and all copies and drafts of same. Documents responsive to this subpoena may be in electronic or paper form. Electronic Documents such as email should be produced in accordance with the attached Document entitled SEC Data Delivery Standards. All electronic Documents responsive to the Document subpoena, including all metadata, should also be produced in their native software format.
2. For Documents in paper format, you may send the originals, or, if you prefer, you may send copies of the originals. The Commission cannot reimburse you for the copying costs. If you are sending copies, the staff requests that you scan (rather than photocopy) hard copy Documents and produce them in an electronic format consistent with the SEC Data Delivery Standards. Alternatively, you may send us photocopies of the Documents in paper format. If you choose to send copies, you must secure and retain the originals and store them in a safe place. The staff may later request or require that you produce the originals.



3. Whether you scan or photocopy Documents, the copies must be identical to the originals, including even faint marks or print. Also, please note that if copies of a Document differ in any way, they are considered separate Documents and you must send each one. For example, if you have two copies of the same letter, but only one of them has handwritten notes on it, you must send both the clean copy and the one with notes.
4. In producing a photocopy of an original Document that contains post-it(s), notation flag(s), or other removable markings or attachments which may conceal all or a portion of the markings contained in the original Document, photocopies of the original Document both with and without the relevant post-it(s), notation flag(s), or removable markings or attachments should be produced.
5. Documents should be produced as they are kept in the ordinary course of business or be organized and labeled to correspond with the categories in this request. In that regard, Documents should be produced in a unitized manner, i.e., delineated with staples or paper clips to identify the Document boundaries.
6. Documents should be labeled with sequential numbering (bates-stamped).
7. You must produce all Documents created during, or Concerning, the period January 1, 2020 to the present, unless otherwise specified in a specific Request.
8. The scope of any given request should not be limited or narrowed based on the fact that it calls for Documents that are responsive to another request.
9. You are not required to produce exact duplicates of any Documents that have been previously produced to the Securities and Exchange Commission staff **in connection with this matter**. If you are not producing Documents based upon a prior production, please identify the responsive Documents that were previously produced.
10. For any Documents that qualify as records of regularly conducted activities under Federal Rule of Evidence 902(11), please complete a business records certification (a sample of which is enclosed) and return it with the Document production.
11. This subpoena covers all Documents in or subject to your possession, custody or control, including all Documents that are not in your immediate possession but that you have the ability to obtain, that are responsive, in whole or in part, to any of the individual requests set forth below. If, for any reason – including a claim of attorney-client privilege – you do not produce something called for by the request, you should submit a list of what you are not producing. The list should be produced as an Excel file and describe each item separately, noting:
  - a. its author(s);
  - b. its date;
  - c. its subject matter;
  - d. the name of the Person who has the item now, or the last Person known to have it;

- e. the names of everyone who ever had the item or a copy of it, and the names of everyone who was told the item's contents;
  - f. the basis upon which you are not producing the responsive Document;
  - g. the specific request in the subpoena to which the Document relates;
  - h. the attorney(s) and the client(s) involved; and
  - i. in the case of the work product doctrine, the litigation for which the Document was prepared in anticipation.
12. If Documents responsive to this subpoena no longer exist because they have been lost, discarded, or otherwise destroyed, you should identify such Documents and give the date on which they were lost, discarded or destroyed.

**C. Documents to be Produced**

- 1. All Documents or Communications concerning the Merger.
- 2. All Documents or Communications concerning the payment of any dividend of any kind to existing Torchlight or Metamaterial shareholders in connection with the Merger.
- 3. All Documents or Communications concerning plans for a reverse stock split.
- 4. All Documents or Communications concerning the acquisition or sale of any security related to Torchlight or Metamaterial, including but not limited to company stock, debt securities, options, or futures contracts.
- 5. All drafts of the Agreement or any previous Agreements concerning the Merger.
- 6. Documents sufficient to identify all other potential merger or acquisition partners considered by Torchlight from 2018 to present.
- 7. Identify all individuals or entities compensated by Torchlight, Metamaterial, or any associated individual compensated in whole or in part for discussing, in public or online, Torchlight, Metamaterial, or the Merger.
- 8. All Documents or Communications concerning discussion, in public or online, of Torchlight, Metamaterial, or the Merger, including any communications directly with investors or potential investors.
- 9. Documents sufficient to disclose the corporate structure of Torchlight and Metamaterial, including, but not limited to, the date and place of establishment, organization, and, if applicable, incorporation.
- 10. Documents sufficient to identify all officers, directors, principals, owners, shareholders, employees, and all others acting on behalf of Torchlight or Metamaterial, and Documents sufficient to disclose, for each individual identified in response to this Item:
  - (a) title;
  - (b) dates of affiliation with Torchlight or Metamaterial;
  - (c) current or last known home address and telephone number;

- (d) current or last known employment address and telephone number; and
  - (e) for officers, directors, principles and owners: Documents sufficient to identify all salary or other compensation, including stock or stock options, for each year from January 1, 2018 to present.
11. Documents sufficient to identify all domestic and foreign bank, brokerage, or other financial accounts held by or on behalf of Torchlight or Metamaterial.
  12. Documents sufficient to identify all other assets held by or on behalf of Torchlight or Metamaterial.
  13. Documents sufficient to show the sale or exchange of any assets held on behalf of Torchlight since September 23, 2020, including documents sufficient to show all value received for such sales or exchanges.
  14. Documents sufficient to identify all known investors who acquired securities in connection with Torchlight's Form S-3 filed September 23, 2020; Form S-3 filed May 28, 2021; or Forms 424B5 filed June 16 and June 21, 2021.
  15. For each investor identified in response to Item 14 above, Documents sufficient to disclose:
    - (a) the name, address, and telephone number for each investor,
    - (b) the quantity and price of securities transacted,
    - (c) the date(s) of investments,
    - (d) if different, the date of commitment to invest, and
    - (e) whether, when, and how much of each investors' shares have been sold.
  16. For each investor identified in response to Item 14 above, all Documents Concerning agreements or contracts between Torchlight or any representative and the investor and all Documents concerning terms of investments.
  17. Documents sufficient to identify all individuals or entities who were solicited as potential investors but did not ultimately invest in Torchlight pursuant to the offerings reflected in Item 14 above.
  18. All Documents concerning Communications between Torchlight or Metamaterial and investors or potential investors in Torchlight or Metamaterial.
  19. All Communications concerning any problems with the purchase, sale, exchange, or delivery of any security or security contract associated with Torchlight or Metamaterial from June 1, 2021 to present.
  20. To the extent not provided in response to other Items, all Documents Concerning the following:
    - (a) All Torchlight or Metamaterial accounts held at all other domestic or foreign banks, brokerages, or other financial institutions from January 1, 2020, including, but not limited to, account opening Documents and periodic or other statements.
    - (b) John Brda

- (c) Robert Cook
- (d) Michael Graves
- (e) Mark Komonoski
- (f) Greg McCabe
- (g) Georgios Palikaras
- (h) Roger Wurtele
- (i) Alexandre Zyngier

21. To the extent not provided in response to other Items, Documents sufficient to identify all securities, brokerage, or cryptocurrency accounts that you have held in your name, individually or jointly, directly or indirectly, at any time since January 1, 2020. Include all foreign accounts. For each such account, identify: (i) the brokerage firm; (ii) the location of the branch where your account is or was held; (iii) your broker; (iv) the type of account (*i.e.*, cash, margin or IRA); (v) the account number; and (vi) whether any person has ever held discretionary authority or power of attorney over the account; if so, name such person(s).
22. To the extent not provided in response to other Items, Documents sufficient to identify all accounts you have held in your name or indirectly, individually or jointly, at any financial institution (*i.e.*, bank, thrift, or credit union) at any time since January 1, 2020. Include all foreign accounts. For each such account, identify: (i) the financial institution; (ii) the address of the branch at which your account is or was held; (iii) the type of account (*i.e.*, checking, savings, money market or IRA); (iv) the account number; and (v) whether any other person has ever had discretionary authority or power of attorney over the account; if so, name such person(s).
23. Copies of all tax returns filed or prepared on your behalf, together with all supporting documentation, from January 1, 2020 through the present. This request expressly includes tax returns prepared, now or in the future, for the tax year 2021.



## U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

### Data Delivery Standards

This document describes the technical requirements for paper and electronic document productions to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). **\*\*Any questions or proposed file formats other than those described below must be discussed with the legal and technical staff of the SEC Division of Enforcement prior to submission.\*\***

General Instructions.....	1
Delivery Formats.....	2
I. Imaged Productions.....	3
1. Images.....	3
2. Image Cross-Reference File .....	3
3. Data File.....	3
4. Text.....	3
5. Linked Native Files.....	3
II. Native File Productions without Load Files .....	4
III. Adobe PDF File Productions .....	4
IV. Audio Files.....	4
V. Video Files .....	4
VI. Electronic Trade and Bank Records.....	4
VII. Electronic Phone Records .....	4
VIII. Audit Workpapers.....	5
IX. Mobile Device Data .....	5

#### General Instructions

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the current, temporary mailing address for all physical productions sent to the SEC is:  
**ENF-CPU (U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission), 14420 Albemarle Point Place, Suite 102, Chantilly, VA 20151-1750**

Electronic files must be produced in their native format, i.e. the format in which they are ordinarily used and maintained during the normal course of business. For example, an MS Excel file must be produced as an MS Excel file rather than an image of a spreadsheet. **(Note: An Adobe PDF file is not considered a native file unless the document was initially created as a PDF.)**

In the event produced files require the use of proprietary software not commonly found in the workplace, the SEC will explore other format options with the producing party.

The proposed use of file de-duplication methodologies or *computer-assisted review* or *technology-assisted review* (TAR) during the processing of documents must be discussed with and approved by the legal and technical staff of the Division of Enforcement (ENF). If your production will be de-duplicated it is vital that you 1) preserve any unique metadata associated with the duplicate files, for example, custodian name and file location and, 2) make that unique metadata part of your production to the SEC.

General requirements for **ALL** document productions are:

1. A cover letter must be included with each production and should include the following information:
  - a. Case number, case name and requesting SEC staff member name
  - b. A list of each piece of media included in the production with its unique production volume number
  - c. A list of custodians, identifying the Bates range for each custodian
  - d. The time zone in which the emails were standardized during conversion
  - e. Whether the production contains native files produced from Mac operating system environments
2. Data can be produced on CD, DVD, thumb drive, etc., using the media requiring the least number of deliverables and labeled with the following:
  - a. Case number
  - b. Production date
  - c. Producing party
  - d. Bates range (if applicable)
3. All submissions must be organized by **custodian** unless otherwise instructed.
4. All document family groups, i.e. email attachments, embedded files, etc., should be produced together and children files should follow parent files sequentially in the Bates numbering.
5. All load-ready collections should include only one data load file and one image pointer file.
6. All load-ready text must be produced as separate document-level text files.
7. All load-ready collections should account for custodians in the custodian field.
8. All load-ready collections must provide the extracted contents of any container files to ensure all relevant files are produced as separate records.
9. Audio files should be separated from data files if both are included in the production.
10. Only alphanumeric characters and the underscore character are permitted in file names and folder names. Special characters are not permitted.
11. All electronic productions submitted on media must be produced using industry standard self-extracting encryption software.
12. The SEC uses 7zip to access compressed files. Note that the SEC **cannot** accept files that use AES-256 Jpeg or pkAES-256-Cert Deflate compression methods, even if the files are created with 7zip. If you have any questions or need additional information, please reach out to the requesting SEC staff member.
13. Electronic productions of 20 GB or less are strongly encouraged to be submitted via Secure File Transfer. All Secure File Transfers should be sent to the SEC Centralized Production Unit ([ENF-CPU@sec.gov](mailto:ENF-CPU@sec.gov)) with a CC to the requesting SEC staff member. If you do not have your own Secure File Transfer application, you may reach out to the requesting SEC staff member for a link to the SEC system in order to upload your production. If using the SEC Secure File Transfer system, you will NOT be able to CC individuals outside the SEC on your upload transmission. Note that the SEC **cannot** accept productions made using file sharing sites such as Google Drive, Microsoft Office 365 or Dropbox.
14. Productions containing BSA or SAR material must be delivered on encrypted physical media. The SEC **cannot** accept electronic transmission of BSA or SAR material. Any BSA or SAR material produced should be segregated and appropriately marked as BSA or SAR material, or should be produced separately from other case related material.
15. Passwords for electronic documents, files, compressed archives and encrypted media must be provided separately either via email or in a cover letter apart from the media.
16. All electronic productions should be produced free of computer viruses.
17. Before producing forensically collected images, parties should reach out to the requesting SEC staff member in order to discuss appropriate handling.
18. Before producing unique data sets (large sets of relational data, website reconstruction, chat room data, etc.), parties should reach out to the requesting SEC staff member in order to discuss an appropriate production format.
19. Additional technical descriptions can be found in the addendum to this document.

**\*Please note that productions sent to the SEC via United States Postal Service are subject to Mail Irradiation, and as a result electronic productions may be damaged.\***

## Delivery Formats

### I. Imaged Productions

The SEC prefers that all scanned paper and electronic file collections be produced in a structured format including industry standard load files, Bates numbered image files, native files and searchable document-level text files.

#### 1. Images

- a. Black and white images must be 300 DPI Group IV single-page TIFF files
- b. Color images must be produced in JPEG format
- c. File names cannot contain embedded spaces or special characters (including the comma)
- d. Folder names cannot contain embedded spaces or special characters (including the comma)
- e. All image files must have a unique file name, i.e. Bates number
- f. Images must be endorsed with sequential Bates numbers in the lower right corner of each image
- g. The number of image files per folder should not exceed 2,000 files
- h. Excel spreadsheets should have a placeholder image named by the Bates number of the file
- i. AUTOCAD/photograph files should be produced as a single page JPEG file

#### 2. Image Cross-Reference File

The image cross-reference file (.LOG or .OPT) links the images to the database records. It should be a comma-delimited file consisting of seven fields per line with a line in the cross-reference file for every image in the database with the following format:

*ImageID,VolumeLabel,ImageFilePath,DocumentBreak,FolderBreak,BoxBreak,PageCount*

#### 3. Data File

The data file (.DAT) contains all of the fielded information that will be loaded into the database.

- a. The first line of the .DAT file must be a header row identifying the field names
- b. The .DAT file must use the following *Concordance*® default delimiters:
  - Comma ¶ ASCII character (020)
  - Quote ¢ ASCII character (254)
- c. If the .DAT file is produced in Unicode format it must contain the byte order marker
- d. Date fields should be provided in the format: mm/dd/yyyy
- e. Date and time fields must be two separate fields
- f. The time zone must be included in all time fields
- g. If the production includes imaged emails and attachments, the attachment fields must be included to preserve the parent/child relationship between an email and its attachments
- h. An OCRPATH field must be included to provide the file path and name of the extracted text file on the produced storage media. The text file must be named after the FIRSTBATES. Do not include the text in the .DAT file.
- i. For productions with native files, a LINK field must be included to provide the file path and name of the native file on the produced storage media. The native file must be named after the FIRSTBATES.
- j. BEGATTACH and ENDATTACH fields must be two separate fields
- k. A complete list of metadata fields is available in **Addendum A** to this document

#### 4. Text

Text must be produced as separate document-level text files, not as fields within the .DAT file. The text files must be named per the FIRSTBATES/Image Key and the full path to the text file (OCRPATH) should be included in the .DAT file. Text files may be in either ANSI or Unicode format, however, ALL text files must be in the same format within the same production. Note that productions containing text with foreign characters must produce text files in Unicode format to preserve the foreign characters. Text files must be in a separate folder, and the number of text files per folder should not exceed 2,000 files. There should be no special characters (including commas) in the folder names. For redacted documents, provide the full text for the redacted version.

#### 5. Linked Native Files

Copies of original email and native file documents/attachments must be included for all electronic productions.

- a. Native file documents must be named per the FIRSTBATES number
- b. The full path of the native file must be provided in the .DAT file for the LINK field
- c. The number of native files per folder should not exceed 2,000 files



## II. Native File Production without Load Files

With prior approval, native files may be produced without load files. The native files must be produced as they are maintained in the normal course of business and organized by custodian-named file folders. When approved, native email files (.PST or .MBOX) may be produced. A separate folder should be provided for each custodian.

## III. Adobe PDF File Production

With prior approval, Adobe PDF files may be produced in native file format.

1. All PDFs must be unitized at the document level, i.e., each PDF must represent a discrete document.
2. PDF files should be produced in separate folders named by the custodian. The folders should not contain any special characters (including commas).
3. All PDF files must contain embedded text that includes all discernible words within the document, not selected text or image only. This requires all layers of the PDF to be flattened first.
4. If PDF files are Bates endorsed, the PDF files must be named by the Bates range.

## IV. Audio Files

Audio files from telephone recording systems must be produced in a format that is playable using Microsoft Windows Media Player™. Additionally, the call information (metadata) related to each audio recording MUST be provided. The metadata file must be produced in a delimited text format. Field names must be included in the first row of the text file. The metadata must include, at a minimum, the following fields:

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 1) Caller Name:        | Caller's name or account/identification number |
| 2) Originating Number: | Caller's phone number                          |
| 3) Called Party Name:  | Called party's name                            |
| 4) Terminating Number: | Called party's phone number                    |
| 5) Date:               | Date of call                                   |
| 6) Time:               | Time of call                                   |
| 7) Filename:           | Filename of audio file                         |

## V. Video Files

Video files must be produced in a format that is playable using Microsoft Windows Media Player™.

## VI. Electronic Trade and Bank Records

When producing electronic trade records, bank records, or financial statements, provide the files in one of the following formats:

1. MS Excel spreadsheet with header information detailing the field structure. If any special codes exist in the dataset, a separate document must be provided that details all such codes. If details of the field structure do not fit in the header, a separate document must be provided that includes such details.
2. Delimited text file with header information detailing the field structure. The preferred delimiter is a vertical bar "|". If any special codes exist in the dataset, a separate document must be provided that details all such codes. If details of the field structure do not fit in the header, a separate document must be provided that includes such details.

## VII. Electronic Phone Records

When producing electronic phone records, provide the files in the following format:

1. MS Excel spreadsheet with header information detailing the field structure. If any special codes exist in the dataset, a separate document must be provided that details all such codes. If details of the field structure do not fit in the header, a separate document must be provided that includes such details. Data must be formatted in its native format (i.e. dates in a date format, numbers in an appropriate numerical format, and numbers with leading zeroes as text).
  - a. The metadata that must be included is outlined in **Addendum B** of this document. Each field of data must be loaded into a separate column. For example, Date and Start\_Time must be produced in separate columns and not combined into a single column containing both pieces of information. Any fields of data that are provided in addition to those listed in **Addendum B** must also be loaded into separate columns.



**VIII. Audit Workpapers**

The SEC prefers for workpapers to be produced in two formats: (1) With Bates numbers in accordance with the SEC Data Delivery Standards; and (2) in native format or if proprietary software was used, on a standalone laptop with the appropriate software loaded so that the workpapers may be reviewed as they would have been maintained in the ordinary course of business. The laptop must have printing capability, and when possible, the laptop should be configured to enable a Virtual Machine (VM) environment.

**IX. Mobile Device Data**

Before producing mobile device data (including but not limited to text messages) parties should reach out to the requesting SEC staff member in order to discuss the appropriate production format.

**ADDENDUM A**

The metadata of electronic document collections should be extracted and provided in a .DAT file using the field definition and formatting described below:

Field Name	Sample Data	Description
FIRSTBATES	EDC0000001	First Bates number of native file document/email
LASTBATES	EDC0000001	Last Bates number of native file document/email **The LASTBATES field should be populated for single page documents/emails.
ATTACHRANGE	EDC0000001 - EDC0000015	Bates number of the first page of the parent document to the Bates number of the last page of the last attachment "child" document
BEGATTACH	EDC0000001	First Bates number of attachment range
ENDATTACH	EDC0000015	Last Bates number of attachment range
PARENT_BATES	EDC0000001	First Bates number of parent document/Email **This PARENT_BATES field should be populated in each record representing an attachment "child" document
CHILD_BATES	EDC0000002; EDC0000014	First Bates number of "child" attachment(s); can be more than one Bates number listed depending on the number of attachments **The CHILD_BATES field should be populated in each record representing a "parent" document
CUSTODIAN	Smith, John	Email: Mailbox where the email resided Native: Name of the individual or department from whose files the document originated
FROM	John Smith	Email: Sender Native: Author(s) of document **semi-colon should be used to separate multiple entries
TO	Coffman, Janice; LeeW [mailto:LeeW@MSN.com]	Recipient(s) **semi-colon should be used to separate multiple entries
CC	Frank Thompson [mailto:frank_Thompson@cdt.com]	Carbon copy recipient(s) **semi-colon should be used to separate multiple entries
BCC	John Cain	Blind carbon copy recipient(s) **semi-colon should be used to separate multiple entries
SUBJECT	Board Meeting Minutes	Email: Subject line of the email Native: Title of document (if available)
FILE_NAME	BoardMeetingMinutes.docx	Native: Name of the original native file, including extension
DATE_SENT	10/12/2010	Email: Date the email was sent Native: (empty)
TIME_SENT/TIME_ZONE	07:05 PM GMT	Email: Time the email was sent/ Time zone in which the emails were standardized during conversion. Native: (empty) **This data must be a separate field and cannot be combined with the DATE_SENT field
TIME_ZONE	GMT	The time zone in which the emails were standardized during conversion. Email: Time zone Native: (empty)

LINK	D:\001\EDC0000001.msg	Hyperlink to the email or native file document **The linked file must be named per the FIRSTBATES number
MIME_TYPE	application/msword	The content type of an email or native file document as identified/extracted from the header
FILE_EXTEN	MSG	The file type extension representing the email or native file document; will vary depending on the format
AUTHOR	John Smith	Email: (empty) Native: Author of the document
LAST_AUTHOR	Jane Doe	Email: (empty) Native: Last Author of the document
DATE_CREATED	10/10/2010	Email: (empty) Native: Date the document was created
TIME_CREATED/TIME_ZONE	10:25 AM GMT	Email: (empty) Native: Time the document was created including time zone **This data must be a separate field and cannot be
DATE_MOD	10/12/2010	Email: (empty) Native: Date the document was last modified
TIME_MOD/TIME_ZONE	07:00 PM GMT	Email: (empty) Native: Time the document was last modified including the time zone **This data must be a separate field and cannot be
DATE_ACCESSD	10/12/2010	Email: (empty) Native: Date the document was last accessed
TIME_ACCESSD/TIME_ZONE	07:00 PM GMT	Email: (empty) Native: Time the document was last accessed including the time zone **This data must be a separate field and cannot be
PRINTED_DATE	10/12/2010	Email: (empty) Native: Date the document was last printed
FILE_SIZE	5,952	Size of native file document/email in KB
PGCOUNT	1	Number of pages in native file document/email
PATH	J:\Shared\SmithJ\October Agenda.doc	Email: (empty) Native: Path where native file document was stored including original file name.
INTFILEPATH	Personal Folders\Deleted Items\Board Meeting Minutes.msg	Email: original location of email including original file name. Native: (empty)
INTMSGID	<000805c2c71b\$75977050\$cb8306d1@MSN>	Email: Unique Message ID Native: (empty)

HEADER	Return-Path: <example_from@dc.edu> X-SpamCatcher-Score:1[X] Received:from[136.167.40.119] (HELO dc.edu) by fe3.dc.edu (CommuniGate Pro SMTP4.1.8) with ESMTP-TLS id 61258719 for example_to@mail.dc.edu; Mon, 23 Aug 2004 11:40:10 - 0400 Message-ID: <4129F3CA.2020509@dc.edu> Date: Mon, 23 Aug 2005 11:40:36 -400 From: Taylor Evans <example_from@dc.edu> User-Agent:Mozilla/5.0 (Windows;U; Windows NT 5.1; en-US;rv:1.0.1) Gecko/20020823 Netscape/7.0 X-Accept-Language:en-us,en MIME-Version:1.0 To: Jon Smith <example_to@mail.dc.edu> Subject:Business Development Meeting Content-Type: text/plain;charset=us-ascii; format=flowed Content-Transfer-Encoding:7bit	Email: The email header information Native: (empty)
MD5HASH	d131dd02c5e6eec4693d9a069 8aff95c 2fcab58712467eab4004583eb 8fb7f89	MD5 Hash value of the document.
OCRPATH	TEXT/001/EDC0000001.txt	Path to extracted text of the native file

## Sample Image Cross-Reference File:

```

IMG00000001,,E:\001\IMG00000001.TIF,Y,,,
IMG00000002,,E:\001\IMG00000002.TIF,,,,
IMG00000003,,E:\001\IMG00000003.TIF,,,,
IMG00000004,,E:\001\IMG00000004.TIF,Y,,,
IMG00000005,,E:\001\IMG00000005.TIF,Y,,,
IMG00000006,,E:\001\IMG00000006.TIF,,,,

```

**ADDENDUM B**

For Electronic Phone Records, include the following fields in separate columns:

For Calls:

- 1) Account Number
- 2) Connection Date – Date the call was received or made
- 3) Connection Time – Time call was received or made
- 4) Seizure Time – Time it took for the call to be placed in seconds
- 5) Originating Number – Phone that placed the call
- 6) Terminating Number – Phone that received the call
- 7) Elapsed Time – The length of time the call lasted, preferably in seconds
- 8) End Time – The time the call ended
- 9) Number Dialed – Actual number dialed
- 10) IMEI Originating – Unique id to phone used to make call
- 11) IMEI Terminating– Unique id to phone used to receive call
- 12) IMSI Originating – Unique id to phone used to make call
- 13) IMSI Terminating- Unique id to phone used to receive call
- 14) Call Codes – Identify call direction or other routing information
- 15) Time Zone – Time Zone in which the call was received or placed, if applicable

For Text messages:

- 1) Account Number
- 2) Connection Date – Date the text was received or made
- 3) Connection Time – Time text was received or made
- 4) Originating Number – Who placed the text
- 5) Terminating Number – Who received the text
- 6) IMEI Originating – Unique id to phone used to make text
- 7) IMEI Terminating– Unique id to phone used to receive text
- 8) IMSI Originating - Unique id to phone used to make text
- 9) IMSI Terminating- Unique id to phone used to receive text
- 10) Text Code – Identify text direction, or other text routing information
- 11) Text Type Code – Type of text message (sent SMS, MMS, or other)
- 12) Time Zone – Time Zone in which the call was received or placed, if applicable

For Mobile Data Usage:

- 1) Account Number
- 2) Connection Date – Date the data was received or made
- 3) Connection Time – Time data was received or made
- 4) Originating number – Number that used data
- 5) IMEI Originating – Unique id of phone that used data
- 6) IMSI Originating - Unique id of phone that used data
- 7) Data or Data codes – Identify data direction, or other data routing information
- 8) Time Zone – Time Zone in which the call was received or placed, if applicable



FORT WORTH  
REGIONAL OFFICE

UNITED STATES  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
BURNETT PLAZA, 801 CHERRY STREET, SUITE 1900, UNIT 18  
FORT WORTH, TX 76102

July 19, 2022

**Via E-Mail and UPS**

John Brda  
c/o Caz Hashemi  
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati  
650 Page Mill Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94304  
[chashemi@wsgr.com](mailto:chashemi@wsgr.com)

Re: In the Matter of Torchlight Energy Resources, Inc., FW-04461

Dear Mr. Hashemi:

The enclosed subpoena has been issued pursuant to a formal order entered by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission. Pursuant to Rule 8 of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission's Rules Relating to Investigations, 17 C.F.R. § 203.8, I have enclosed a subpoena for testimony issued to your client, John Brda, in connection with the above-referenced investigation.

The subpoena requires John Brda to appear virtually, via WebEx, for testimony before the Commission on **August 18, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. CT** to testify under oath in the matter identified on the subpoena. The testimony will be recorded by audio and stenographic means.

Enclosed is a copy of the Commission's Form 1662, entitled "Supplemental Information for Persons Requested to Supply Information Voluntarily or Directed to Supply Information Pursuant to a Commission Subpoena." This form explains how we may use the information that your client provides to the Commission and has other important information for your client. Please provide a copy of this form to your client.

This investigation is a non-public, fact-finding inquiry. We are trying to determine whether there have been any violations of the federal securities laws. The investigation does not mean that we have concluded that anyone has violated the law. Also, the investigation does not mean that we have a negative opinion of any person, entity, or security.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter, you may call me at (817) 900-2635 or reach me by email at [rogerschri@sec.gov](mailto:rogerschri@sec.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Chris Rogers  
Attorney  
Division of Enforcement

Enclosures: Subpoena  
SEC Form 1662

**SUBPOENA****UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION****In the Matter of Torchlight Energy Resources, Inc., FW-04461**

**To:** John Brda  
c/o Caz Hashemi  
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati  
650 Page Mill Road  
Palo Alto, CA 43404

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☐ **YOU MUST PRODUCE** everything specified in the Attachment to this subpoena to officers of the Securities and Exchange Commission, at the place, date and time specified below:

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☒ **YOU MUST TESTIFY** before officers of the Securities and Exchange Commission, at the place, date and time specified below:

**Via Virtual Remote Testimony  
August 18, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. CT**

---

**FEDERAL LAW REQUIRES YOU TO COMPLY WITH THIS SUBPOENA.**

If you do not comply with this subpoena, the SEC may bring an action in Federal Court to enforce this subpoena. Failure to comply with a court order enforcing this subpoena may result in the court imposing a fine, imprisonment, or both.

By:   
Christopher A. Rogers, Attorney  
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission  
Fort Worth Regional Office  
Burnett Plaza, 801 Cherry Street, Suite 1900, Unit 18  
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Date: July 19, 2022

I am an officer of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission authorized to issue subpoenas in this matter. The Securities and Exchange Commission has issued a formal order authorizing this investigation under Section 20(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

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NOTICE TO WITNESS: If you claim a witness fee or mileage, submit this subpoena with the claim voucher.

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**Supplemental Information for Persons Requested to Supply  
Information Voluntarily or Directed to Supply Information  
Pursuant to a Commission Subpoena**

**A. False Statements and Documents**

Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code provides that fines and terms of imprisonment may be imposed upon:

[W]hoever, in any matter within the jurisdiction of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Government of the United States, knowingly and willfully--

- (1) falsifies, conceals, or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact;
- (2) makes any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation; or
- (3) makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry.

Section 1519 of Title 18 of the United States Code provides that fines and terms of imprisonment may be imposed upon:

Whoever knowingly alters, destroys, mutilates, conceals, covers up, falsifies, or makes a false entry in any record, document, or tangible object with the intent to impede, obstruct, or influence the investigation or proper administration of any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States . . . , or in relation to or contemplation of any such matter.

**B. Testimony**

If your testimony is taken, you should be aware of the following:

1. *Record.* Your testimony will be transcribed by a reporter. If you desire to go off the record, please indicate this to the Commission employee taking your testimony, who will determine whether to grant your request. The reporter will not go off the record at your, or your counsel's, direction.
2. *Counsel.* You have the right to be accompanied, represented and advised by counsel of your choice. Your counsel may advise you before, during and after your testimony; question you briefly at the conclusion of your testimony to clarify any of the answers you give during testimony; and make summary notes during your testimony solely for your use. If you are accompanied by counsel, you may consult privately.

If you are not accompanied by counsel, please advise the Commission employee taking your testimony if, during the testimony, you desire to be accompanied, represented and advised by counsel. Your testimony will be adjourned once to afford you the opportunity to arrange to be so accompanied, represented or advised.

You may be represented by counsel who also represents other persons involved in the Commission's investigation. This multiple representation, however, presents a potential conflict of interest if one client's interests are or may be adverse to another's. If you are represented by counsel who also represents other persons involved in the investigation, the Commission will assume that you and counsel have discussed and resolved all issues concerning possible conflicts of interest. The choice of counsel, and the responsibility for that choice, is yours.

3. *Transcript Availability.* Rule 6 of the Commission's Rules Relating to Investigations, 17 CFR 203.6, states:

A person who has submitted documentary evidence or testimony in a formal investigative proceeding shall be entitled, upon written request, to procure a copy of his documentary evidence or a transcript of his testimony on payment of the appropriate fees: *Provided, however,* That in a nonpublic formal investigative proceeding the Commission may for good cause deny such request. In any event, any witness, upon proper identification, shall have the right to inspect the official transcript of the witness' own testimony.

If you wish to purchase a copy of the transcript of your testimony, the reporter will provide you with a copy of the appropriate form. Persons requested to supply information voluntarily will be allowed the rights provided by this rule.



4. *Perjury.* Section 1621 of Title 18 of the United States Code provides that fines and terms of imprisonment may be imposed upon:

Whoever--

(1) having taken an oath before a competent tribunal, officer, or person, in any case in which a law of the United States authorizes an oath to be administered, that he will testify, declare, depose, or certify truly, or that any written testimony, declaration, deposition, or certificate by him subscribed, is true, willfully and contrary to such oath states or subscribes any material matter which he does not believe to be true; or

(2) in any declaration, certificate, verification, or statement under penalty of perjury as permitted under section 1746 of title 28, United States Code, willfully subscribes as true any material matter which he does not believe to be true.

5. *Fifth Amendment and Voluntary Testimony.* Information you give may be used against you in any federal, state, local or foreign administrative, civil or criminal proceeding brought by the Commission or any other agency.

You may refuse, in accordance with the rights guaranteed to you by the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, to give any information that may tend to incriminate you.

If your testimony is not pursuant to subpoena, your appearance to testify is voluntary, you need not answer any question, and you may leave whenever you wish. Your cooperation is, however, appreciated.

6. *Formal Order Availability.* If the Commission has issued a formal order of investigation, it will be shown to you during your testimony, at your request. If you desire a copy of the formal order, please make your request in writing.

### C. Submissions and Settlements

Rule 5(c) of the Commission's Rules on Informal and Other Procedures, 17 CFR 202.5(c), states:

Persons who become involved in . . . investigations may, on their own initiative, submit a written statement to the Commission setting forth their interests and position in regard to the subject matter of the investigation. Upon request, the staff, in its discretion, may advise such persons of the general nature of the investigation, including the indicated violations as they pertain to them, and the amount of time that may be available for preparing and submitting a statement prior to the presentation of a staff recommendation to the Commission for the commencement of an administrative or injunction proceeding. Submissions by interested persons should be forwarded to the appropriate Division Director or Regional Director with a copy to the staff members conducting the investigation and should be clearly referenced to the specific investigation to which they relate. In the event a recommendation for the commencement of an enforcement proceeding is presented by the staff, any submissions by interested persons will be forwarded to the Commission in conjunction with the staff memorandum.

The staff of the Commission routinely seeks to introduce submissions made pursuant to Rule 5(c) as evidence in Commission enforcement proceedings, when the staff deems appropriate.

Rule 5(f) of the Commission's Rules on Informal and Other Procedures, 17 CFR 202.5(f), states:

In the course of the Commission's investigations, civil lawsuits, and administrative proceedings, the staff, with appropriate authorization, may discuss with persons involved the disposition of such matters by consent, by settlement, or in some other manner. It is the policy of the Commission, however, that the disposition of any such matter may not, expressly or impliedly, extend to any criminal charges that have been, or may be, brought against any such person or any recommendation with respect thereto. Accordingly, any person involved in an enforcement matter before the Commission who consents, or agrees to consent, to any judgment or order does so solely for the purpose of resolving the claims against him in that investigative, civil, or administrative matter and not for the purpose of resolving any criminal charges that have been, or might be, brought against him. This policy reflects the fact that neither the Commission nor its staff has the authority or responsibility for instituting, conducting, settling, or otherwise disposing of criminal proceedings. That authority and responsibility are vested in the Attorney General and representatives of the Department of Justice.

### D. Freedom of Information Act

The Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552 (the "FOIA"), generally provides for disclosure of information to the public. Rule 83 of the Commission's Rules on Information and Requests, 17 CFR 200.83, provides a procedure by which a person can make a written request that information submitted to the Commission not be disclosed under the

FOIA. That rule states that no determination as to the validity of such a request will be made until a request for disclosure of the information under the FOIA is received. Accordingly, no response to a request that information not be disclosed under the FOIA is necessary or will be given until a request for disclosure under the FOIA is received. If you desire an acknowledgment of receipt of your written request that information not be disclosed under the FOIA, please provide a duplicate request, together with a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

#### **E. Authority for Solicitation of Information**

*Persons Directed to Supply Information Pursuant to Subpoena.* The authority for requiring production of information is set forth in the subpoena. Disclosure of the information to the Commission is mandatory, subject to the valid assertion of any legal right or privilege you might have.

*Persons Requested to Supply Information Voluntarily.* One or more of the following provisions authorizes the Commission to solicit the information requested: Sections 19 and/or 20 of the Securities Act of 1933; Section 21 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; Section 321 of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939; Section 42 of the Investment Company Act of 1940; Section 209 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940; and 17 CFR 202.5. Disclosure of the requested information to the Commission is voluntary on your part.

#### **F. Effect of Not Supplying Information**

*Persons Directed to Supply Information Pursuant to Subpoena.* If you fail to comply with the subpoena, the Commission may seek a court order requiring you to do so. If such an order is obtained and you thereafter fail to supply the information, you may be subject to civil and/or criminal sanctions for contempt of court. In addition, Section 21(c) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 42(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, and Section 209(c) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 provide that fines and terms of imprisonment may be imposed upon any person who shall, without just cause, fail or refuse to attend and testify or to answer any lawful inquiry, or to produce books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, and other records in compliance with the subpoena.

*Persons Requested to Supply Information Voluntarily.* There are no direct sanctions and thus no direct effects for failing to provide all or any part of the requested information.

#### **G. Principal Uses of Information**

The Commission's principal purpose in soliciting the information is to gather facts in order to determine whether any person has violated, is violating, or is about to violate any provision of the federal securities laws or rules for which the Commission has enforcement authority, such as rules of securities exchanges and the rules of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board. Facts developed may, however, constitute violations of other laws or rules. Information provided may be used in Commission and other agency enforcement proceedings. Unless the Commission or its staff explicitly agrees to the contrary in writing, you should not assume that the Commission or its staff acquiesces in, accedes to, or concurs or agrees with, any position, condition, request, reservation of right, understanding, or any other statement that purports, or may be deemed, to be or to reflect a limitation upon the Commission's receipt, use, disposition, transfer, or retention, in accordance with applicable law, of information provided.

#### **H. Routine Uses of Information**

The Commission often makes its files available to other governmental agencies, particularly United States Attorneys and state prosecutors. There is a likelihood that information supplied by you will be made available to such agencies where appropriate. Whether or not the Commission makes its files available to other governmental agencies is, in general, a confidential matter between the Commission and such other governmental agencies.

Set forth below is a list of the routine uses which may be made of the information furnished.

1. To appropriate agencies, entities, and persons when (1) the SEC suspects or has confirmed that there has been a breach of the system of records, (2) the SEC has determined that as a result of the suspected or confirmed breach there is a risk of harm to individuals, the SEC (including its information systems, programs, and operations), the Federal Government, or national security; and (3) the disclosure made to such agencies, entities, and persons is reasonably necessary to assist in connection with the SEC's efforts to respond to the suspected or confirmed breach or to prevent, minimize, or remedy such harm.
2. To other Federal, state, local, or foreign law enforcement agencies; securities self-regulatory organizations; and foreign financial regulatory authorities to assist in or coordinate regulatory or law enforcement activities with the SEC.
3. To national securities exchanges and national securities associations that are registered with the SEC, the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board; the Securities Investor Protection Corporation; the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board; the Federal banking authorities, including, but not limited to, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; state securities regulatory agencies or organizations; or regulatory authorities of a foreign government in connection with their regulatory or enforcement responsibilities.

4. By SEC personnel for purposes of investigating possible violations of, or to conduct investigations authorized by, the Federal securities laws.
5. In any proceeding where the Federal securities laws are in issue or in which the Commission, or past or present members of its staff, is a party or otherwise involved in an official capacity.
6. In connection with proceedings by the Commission pursuant to Rule 102(e) of its Rules of Practice, 17 CFR 201.102(e).
7. To a bar association, state accountancy board, or other Federal, state, local, or foreign licensing or oversight authority; or professional association or self-regulatory authority to the extent that it performs similar functions (including the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board) for investigations or possible disciplinary action.
8. To a Federal, state, local, tribal, foreign, or international agency, if necessary to obtain information relevant to the SEC's decision concerning the hiring or retention of an employee; the issuance of a security clearance; the letting of a contract; or the issuance of a license, grant, or other benefit.
9. To a Federal, state, local, tribal, foreign, or international agency in response to its request for information concerning the hiring or retention of an employee; the issuance of a security clearance; the reporting of an investigation of an employee; the letting of a contract; or the issuance of a license, grant, or other benefit by the requesting agency, to the extent that the information is relevant and necessary to the requesting agency's decision on the matter.
10. To produce summary descriptive statistics and analytical studies, as a data source for management information, in support of the function for which the records are collected and maintained or for related personnel management functions or manpower studies; may also be used to respond to general requests for statistical information (without personal identification of individuals) under the Freedom of Information Act.
11. To any trustee, receiver, master, special counsel, or other individual or entity that is appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, or as a result of an agreement between the parties in connection with litigation or administrative proceedings involving allegations of violations of the Federal securities laws (as defined in section 3(a)(47) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(47)) or pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice, 17 CFR 201.100 through 900 or the Commission's Rules of Fair Fund and Disgorgement Plans, 17 CFR 201.1100 through 1106, or otherwise, where such trustee, receiver, master, special counsel, or other individual or entity is specifically designated to perform particular functions with respect to, or as a result of, the pending action or proceeding or in connection with the administration and enforcement by the Commission of the Federal securities laws or the Commission's Rules of Practice or the Rules of Fair Fund and Disgorgement Plans.
12. To any persons during the course of any inquiry, examination, or investigation conducted by the SEC's staff, or in connection with civil litigation, if the staff has reason to believe that the person to whom the record is disclosed may have further information about the matters related therein, and those matters appeared to be relevant at the time to the subject matter of the inquiry.
13. To interns, grantees, experts, contractors, and others who have been engaged by the Commission to assist in the performance of a service related to this system of records and who need access to the records for the purpose of assisting the Commission in the efficient administration of its programs, including by performing clerical, stenographic, or data analysis functions, or by reproduction of records by electronic or other means. Recipients of these records shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, 5 U.S.C. 552a.
14. In reports published by the Commission pursuant to authority granted in the Federal securities laws (as such term is defined in section 3(a)(47) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(47)), which authority shall include, but not be limited to, section 21(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. 78u(a)).
15. To members of advisory committees that are created by the Commission or by Congress to render advice and recommendations to the Commission or to Congress, to be used solely in connection with their official designated functions.
16. To any person who is or has agreed to be subject to the Commission's Rules of Conduct, 17 CFR 200.735-1 through 200.735-18, and who assists in the investigation by the Commission of possible violations of the Federal securities laws (as such term is defined in section 3(a)(47) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(47)), in the preparation or conduct of enforcement actions brought by the Commission for such violations, or otherwise in connection with the Commission's enforcement or regulatory functions under the Federal securities laws.
17. To a Congressional office from the record of an individual in response to an inquiry from the Congressional office made at the request of that individual.

18. To members of Congress, the press, and the public in response to inquiries relating to particular Registrants and their activities, and other matters under the Commission's jurisdiction.

19. To prepare and publish information relating to violations of the Federal securities laws as provided in 15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(47)), as amended.

20. To respond to subpoenas in any litigation or other proceeding.

21. To a trustee in bankruptcy.

22. To any governmental agency, governmental or private collection agent, consumer reporting agency or commercial reporting agency, governmental or private employer of a debtor, or any other person, for collection, including collection by administrative offset, Federal salary offset, tax refund offset, or administrative wage garnishment, of amounts owed as a result of Commission civil or administrative proceedings.

23. To another Federal agency or Federal entity, when the SEC determines that information from this system of records is reasonably necessary to assist the recipient agency or entity in (1) responding to a suspected or confirmed breach or (2) preventing, minimizing, or remedying the risk of harm to individuals, the recipient agency or entity (including its information systems, programs, and operations), the Federal Government, or national security, resulting from a suspected or confirmed breach.

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*Small Business Owners:* The SEC always welcomes comments on how it can better assist small businesses. If you would like more information, or have questions or comments about federal securities regulations as they affect small businesses, please contact the Office of Small Business Policy, in the SEC's Division of Corporation Finance, at 202-551-3460. If you would prefer to comment to someone outside of the SEC, you can contact the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman at <http://www.sba.gov/ombudsman> or toll free at 888-REG-FAIR. The Ombudsman's office receives comments from small businesses and annually evaluates federal agency enforcement activities for their responsiveness to the special needs of small business.